

## 502<sup>nd</sup> AIR BASE WING



### **MISSION**

502<sup>nd</sup> Air Base Wing (ABW), serves as the host wing for Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA), which was comprised of four major locations: JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, JBSA-Randolph, JBSA-Lackland, and JBSA-Camp Bullis, as well as several other smaller sites. JBSA stretched across the San Antonio area and none of the major locations shared a common boundary. In all, the wing provided installation support and services to more than 200 mission partners and more than 100,000 permanent party personnel, students, and dependents, as well as 33,000 civilian employees, 35,000 retirees, and more than 200,000 veterans in the greater San Antonio area.

The gamut of installation support functions provided by the 502 ABW included civil engineering, communications, personnel administration and sustainment, morale and welfare programs, logistics, security, financial management, legal support, public affairs, chaplain services, and installation safety programs. Medical services for JBSA fell under the umbrella of the San Antonio Military Health System (SAMHS), which was not a part of the 502 ABW. In turn, components of SAMHS, including the Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC) and the 59th Medical Wing and their subordinate units were supported by the 502 ABW.

### **LINEAGE**

502<sup>nd</sup> Air University Wing established and organized, 17 Nov 1947  
Disestablished, 27 Jul 1948

3800<sup>th</sup> Air University Wing established and organized, 28 Jul 1948  
Redesignated 3800<sup>th</sup> Air Base Wing, 1 Sep 1954

Redesignated 3800<sup>th</sup> Air Base Group, 2 Jan 1979  
Redesignated 3800<sup>th</sup> Air Base Wing, 21 Jul 1983

502<sup>nd</sup> Air University Wing and 3800<sup>th</sup> Air Base Wing consolidated and redesignated 502<sup>nd</sup> Air Base Wing, 1 Oct 1992

Inactivated, 1 Oct 1994  
Activated, 1 Aug 2009

### **STATIONS**

Maxwell Field (later, Maxwell AFB), AL, 17 Nov 1947-1 Oct 1994  
Fort Sam Houston, TX, 1 Aug 2009

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

Air University, 17 Nov 1947-1 Oct 1994  
Air Education and Training Command, 1 Aug 2009

### **COMMANDERS**

Col William E. Covington Jr., 17 Nov 1947-unkn  
Col Sydney D. Grubbs Jr., 17 Jun 1948  
Col Leslie G. Mulzer, 8 Jan 1949  
Col Stoyte O. Ross, 1 Nov 1951  
Col James P. Newberry, 1 Jun 1952  
Col James G. Pratt, 28 Mar 1953  
Col Mills S. Savage, 1 Nov 1955  
Col Clyde C. Harris Jr., 5 May 1958  
Col William J. Wigglesworth, 1 Jun 1961  
Col Wilson R. Wood, 1 Aug 1963  
Col Rudolph B. Walters, 12 Jan 1967  
Col Paul A. Jones, 2 Apr 1968  
Col Lattie A. Ritter Jr., 21 Jan 1970  
Col Charles G. Weber, 16 Aug 1970  
Col Andrew J. Chapman, 12 Nov 1972  
Col James H. Hiley, 15 Jun 1974  
Col David T. Stockman, 18 Aug 1975  
Col Robert D. Hartwig, 1 Sep 1978  
Col Robert W. McClain, 1 Jun 1979  
Col William D. Palmer, 7 Jul 1980  
Col Donald F. Brackett, 15 Apr 1982  
Col Vardaman F. Johnson, 30 Jun 1983  
Col Mark J. Dierlam, 25 Mar 1985  
Col David J. Vogl, 20 Jun 1988  
Col Gerald R. Adams, 18 Jun 1991  
BG Albert D. Jensen, 4 Aug 1993

BG Thomas C. Waskow, 9 Aug-1 Oct 1994  
BG Leonard A. Patrick, 1 Aug 2009  
BG Theresa C. Carter  
BG Theresa C. Carter, 18 Jul 2011  
BG Robert A. LaBrutta, 29 May 2013

## HONORS

### Service Streamers

None

### Campaign Streamers

None

### Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

## Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jan 1965-31 Dec 1966

1 Jul 1972-30 Jun 1973

1 Jan 1986-31 Dec 1987

1 Jun 1992-30 May 1994

## EMBLEM



3800<sup>th</sup> Air Base Wing emblem

502<sup>nd</sup> Air Base Wing emblem: Per pale Azure and Vert a nebulee palewise Or, issuant at nombril a mullet coupled Gules, surmounted by a second mullet Argent inner fimbriation of the first; all within a diminished bordure Or. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "502D AIR BASE WING" in Blue letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of

Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The divided shield represents the earth and the sky. The foundation of this emblem honors the heraldry of the unit. This emblem maintains roots from the first official emblem, approved in 1954, and serves as a reminder to us of the past. The lone star signifies a shining example of service to guide the way. The three visible points of the star represent Air Force, Army and Navy in joint venture. The two interlocking points of the land and sky signify the strength and united effort of the joint forces serving within the 502d Air Base Wing. The colors formed by the border of the emerging star represent the United States and the forces assembled to protect the serenity of this country. (Approved, 8 Jul 1954)

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

On 17 November 1947, the Air Force organized and activated the 502d Air University Wing (502 A UW) at Maxwell Field, in Montgomery, Alabama. The Air Force, which became a separate service on two months before, initiated a re-organization program that decentralized operations and provided for easier and quicker mobility of tactical units. As part of the re-organization, the Air Force inactivated the 42d Army Air Force Base Unit, and activated the 502 A UW in its place. Personnel and equipment from the 42d transferred to the 502 A UW. Under the command of Col. William E. Covington Jr., the 502 A UW provided logistical support and base services for Air University and other base agencies on or near Maxwell Field and nearby Gunter Field.

The 502 A UW performed the installation support mission for less than a year when the Air Force disestablished the wing on 27 July 1948 and established, organized, and activated the 3800th Air University Wing in its place on 28 July 1948. The 3800th, under various designations, accomplished the installation support mission at Maxwell and Gunter for the next 44 years.

On 9 November 2005, President George W. Bush endorsed the recommendations of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC), and signed them into law. One of the recommendations called for the implementation of joint basing. Joint basing involved a single entity that managed the support functions of two or more adjacent DoD installations. The commission felt that combined support functions eliminated duplicated efforts and created a single efficient organization. For San Antonio, the commission recommended joint basing for the three major installations around the city; Fort Sam Houston, Lackland AFB, and Randolph AFB.

On 1 August 2009, the 502 ABW activated once again, this time to perform the vital joint base mission. Because of its central location in San Antonio and Bexar County, Texas, the Air Force activated the wing at Fort Sam Houston. This also marked the return of a major Air Force presence to Fort Sam Houston for the first time since 1917. Unlike its prior activations, the 502 ABW did not replace a unit. The wing gradually built its staff over the next few months, while it coordinated with the support functions at Fort Sam Houston, Lackland AFB, and Randolph AFB, in anticipation of JBSA achieving Initial Operational Capability (IOC). When IOC occurred, the 502

ABW assumed the installation support mission for the three installations.

On 31 January 2010, the 502 ABW took over responsibility as the host unit at Lackland and Randolph. On that day, the 12th Mission Support Group at Randolph inactivated and the 902d Mission Support Group activated in its place. Meanwhile, the 37th Mission Support Group at Lackland inactivated and the 802d Mission Support Group activated in its place. At Fort Sam Houston, the wing assumed IOC on 30 April 2010 when the 502d Mission Support Group (502 MSG) activated. The 502 MSG also provided installation support for Camp Bullis in northwestern Bexar County. The three groups and their subordinate squadrons accomplished the various installation support missions for each JBSA installation. The US Army Garrison at Fort Sam Houston remained active alongside the 502 MSG until JBSA achieved Full Operational Capability (FOC) on 1 October 2010. At FOC, the Garrison inactivated and the Army civilian employees transferred to the Air Force.

7/23/2010 The 502nd ABW got a little closer to establishing itself July 14 here as Brig. Gen. Leonard Patrick, the 502nd ABW commander, was joined by various local and military officials in breaking ground for the wing's new headquarters. The 25,733-square-foot building will cost approximately \$7.4 million and have a 5.5-acre footprint. Officials are anticipating occupancy in July 2011. The 502nd ABW consists of three major Air Force support elements: the 802nd Mission Support Group at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, the 902nd MSG at Randolph AFB, Texas, and Fort Sam Houston Garrison was renamed the 502nd MSG. The new building is being built to achieve Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Silver certification, said H.D. Eisenhauer, the chief of engineering for the 502nd ABW. "The project team is incorporating a variety of sustainable design elements including extensive use of local (and) regional certified wood, and recycled building materials," he said. "The facility also incorporates sustainable landscape measures, advanced building commissioning, a rainwater harvesting system for irrigation (and) a solar water heating system." The Air Force was directed to be the executive agent for the action in San Antonio and this is the largest single Department of Defense installation. One of 12 joint bases within the DOD, the 502nd ABW officials will oversee installation support at Lackland and Randolph AFBs and Fort Sam Houston.

As FY 2013 opened, the 502 ABW was engaged in a significant organizational transformation initiative begun in FY 2012 to realign its support groups by function as opposed to the existing geographic construct and to formally consolidate JBSA into a single installation. As the initiative progressed in FYs 2013 and 2014, the 502 ABW evolved from its existing structure with one more or less traditional mission support group each at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, JBSA-Randolph, and JBSA-Lackland to the desired functional construct in FY 2014. Under the functional alignment, the wing still had a group at each major location, but each group had responsibilities spanning JBSA.

For example, instead of three civil engineer squadrons, the wing only had one servicing all of JBSA. This did not mean that if, for example, the civil engineer squadron was headquartered at JBSA-Lackland, its technicians would only be located there. Generally speaking, the wing's functions would have a physical presence at each major JBSA location just as they had before. The force support squadrons were a notable exception to the construct. Prior to the restructuring

the wing had three force support squadrons, one at each major JBSA location. Each performed manpower and personnel functions, sustainment services, military and family services, force development functions, and provided community services for its respective location.

Following the reorganization, the remaining two force support squadrons divided responsibilities for the entire JBSA community: the 502 FSS performed community services functions and administered child development and youth programs and the 802 FSS provided manpower, personnel, and force development functions and military and family services (excluding child and development and youth programs). Also, the wing retained a security forces squadron at each of the three major locations due to the complexity of security requirements at each location. Along with the organizational restructuring, the initiative also included actions intended to formally make JBSA a true single installation.

Originally, the wing predicated the reorganization on the attainment of the actions to consolidate the installation but as this initiative progressed, it became evident that some of these actions were either not achievable, primarily due to technological or regulatory impediments, or had undesirable second and third-order effects. However, some were achievable and were implemented. While acknowledging that the goal of consolidation was unattainable at the time, nevertheless 502 ABW leaders were convinced that the reorganization of the wing was necessary and the initiative progressed and was implemented on 3 December 2013. At the outset of FY 2013, the 502 ABW consisted of three mission support groups: the 502d Mission Support Group (502 MSG) at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, the 802 MSG at JBSA-Lackland, and the 902 MSG at JBSA-Randolph.

Essentially, the wing operated in triplicate as each MSG consisted of civil engineer, communications, contracting, force support, logistics readiness, and security forces squadrons that provided mission support at its location. In addition to these, the 802d Operations Support Squadron (802 OSS) was assigned to the 802 MSG to support flying operations at JBSA-Lackland and the JBSA-Kelly Annex and a trainer development office was assigned to the 902d MSG at JBSA-Randolph to design, develop, fabricate, assemble, modify, repair, refurbish, and maintain training equipment in support of the command-wide AETC training mission. Three comptroller squadrons (CPTS), the 502 CPTS, 802 CPTS, and 902 CPTS, were assigned directly to the wing to support the financial requirements at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, JBSA-Lackland, and JBSA Randolph, respectively. In addition, The Band of the West was directly assigned to the wing.

Wing staff agencies served as focal points for various programs and included the Staff Judge Advocate's Office; the Inspector General; the Plans, Programs, and Integration Office; the Equal Opportunity Office; Public Affairs; the Chaplain's Office; the Command Post; the Safety Office; the Information Protection Office; and the History Office. In addition to the staff residing at the wing headquarters, the Judge Advocate's Office, the Equal Opportunity Office, Public Affairs, the Chaplain's Office, and the Safety Office operated satellite locations at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, JBSA-Lackland, and JBSA-Randolph to service the population at those locations. In 2014, the Information Protection Office was absorbed into the 802d Security Forces Squadron at JBSA Lackland as a result of an AETC decision to realign those offices from wing staff to Security Forces.

On 3 December 2013, the 802d and 902d Mission Support Groups were inactivated at JBSA-Lackland and JBSA-Randolph, respectively, and the 502d Installation Support Group and the 502d Security Forces and Logistics Support Group were activated in their place. Meanwhile, at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston the 502d Mission Support Group was redesignated as the 502d Force Support Group. The squadrons assigned to 802d and 902d Mission Support Groups, with the exception of the 802d and 902d Security Forces Squadrons and the 802d Force Support Squadron, were inactivated and the squadrons formerly assigned to the 502d Mission Support Group remained active. The 502d Civil Engineer Squadron and the 502d Communications Squadron were reassigned to the 502d Installation Support Group and the 502d Logistics Readiness and Security Forces Squadrons were assigned to the 502d Security Forces and Logistics Support Group, along with the 802d and 902d Security Forces Squadrons. The 502d Force Support Squadron remained under the newly redesignated 502d Force Support Group, paired with the 802d Force Support Squadron, and the 502d Contracting Squadron was assigned directly to the wing. The Band of the West and the 502d Comptroller Squadron remained assigned directly to the wing and the 802d and 902d Comptroller Squadrons were inactivated. Rounding out the transformation, the 502d Trainer Development Squadron was activated and assigned to the 502d Security Forces and Logistics Support Group, assuming the mission of the Trainer Development Section of the inactivated 802d Mission Support Group, and the 502d Operations Support Squadron was activated and assigned to the 502d Installation Support Group, assuming the mission of the inactivated 802d Operations Support Squadron.